



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development

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Governor Kaine proclaims May 6 – 12 Building Safety Week

Richmond, VA – Governor Timothy M. Kaine has officially proclaimed May 6 – 12 as Building Safety Week in Virginia. The Governor signed the proclamation to emphasize the importance of building codes and code enforcement in the everyday safety of Virginians. The theme of this year's Building Safety Week, sponsored nationally by the [International Code Council](#), is *"Building Smarter... for Disasters and Everyday Life."*

"As we move in and out of buildings every day, we don't usually think about the building codes or safety measures taken during construction, but they are crucial to protecting health and safety," said Governor Kaine. "Building Safety Week is a time for us to recognize the important role building codes and officials play in keeping Virginians safe."

In Virginia, the Uniform Statewide Building code is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development ([DHCD](#)). DHCD also trains the state's building and fire code officials through the Virginia Building Code Academy.

Building codes address all aspects of construction, including structural integrity, electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems, energy efficiency and property maintenance.

"Virginia was one of the first states in the nation to adopt a uniform statewide building code," said Bill Shelton, director of DHCD. "Over the years Virginia's code officials have become highly regarded nationally for their code development and enforcement programs, something that all Virginians can be proud of."

During Building Safety Week, homeowners and occupants are encouraged to take additional safety measures including ensuring they have properly operating smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, portable fire extinguishers, operable emergency escape windows, and have had regular natural gas inspections and fireplace cleanings as safety precautions.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia.

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DHCD partners with Virginia's communities to develop their economic potential, improve the quality and affordability of housing, provide for basic building safety, and increase their capacity to address community development and housing needs. Each year, DHCD invests more than \$100 million into housing and community development projects throughout the state - the majority of which are designed to help low-to-moderate income citizens. Visit the DHCD Web site at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov.

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